

## REPORT

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SOURCE Uredni List.

The government of Czechoslovakia on 11 March 1952 approved the decree for sowing, basic agrotechnical operations, and planned harvests of sugar beets and potatoes, as submitted by Minister of Agriculture Josef Nepomucky, as follows:

The growing demand for meat and meat products requires an increase in feed for pigs, particularly increased production of potatoes. The over-all harvest of sugar beets and potatoes last year remained considerably below the planned level, particularly because of low yields per hectare. This year, agriculture is to produce 24.6 percent more potatoes and 28 percent more sugar beets than last year. To do this, an increase in yields per hectare of 22 percent for potatoes and 27.5 percent for sugar beets must be attained.

In 1951, the sugar-beet production plan was not fulfilled. The main causes of this were shortcomings in agrotechnology, primarily the quality of work in preparing the soil, and the length of time taken; improper utilization of machines and of the aid of MTS; insufficient quantities and utilization of manpower; and improper methods of rewarding labor.

High yields were attained by many JZD (Unified Agricultural Cooperatives) and state farms during the competition for 1951, in which proper agrotechnology was used. Examples of these yields show that sugar-production goals set for the fourth year of the Five-Year Plan [i.e. 1952] can be not only fulfilled, but surpassed.

The government believes that this year the JZD, state farms, and all small and medium farmers will utilize the experience and knowledge gained by Czechoslovak cooperative farmers and state farm workers to an even greater extent, in order that they not only reach but surpass the planned yields. The primary concern will be to improve and maintain proper methods in raising potatoes and sugar beets, to improve the quality and condition of seed potatoes.

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to raise the quality of sugar-beet seed, improve the organization of labor, perfect the method of rewarding labor, and develop competitions in order that state farms and JZD, together with MTS, will serve as examples of large-scale agricultural production for small and medium farmers.

In order that these goals may be attained the government has made the following resolutions:

High Hectare Yields of Potatoes Through Proper Agrotechnology

The Ministry of Agriculture and the national committees shall aid the JZD, state farms, and small and medium farmers to provide for planned hectare yields, maintain and conscientiously carry out basic agrotechnical measures in soil conservation, planting, cultivating, and harvesting potatoes, particularly by:

- a. Retaining spring moisture in the soil, applying synthetic fertilizers, and weeding and aerating the soil, all to be achieved by proper soil preparation.
- b. Using healthy, carefully selected, preferably improved seed potatoes. In regions infested with potato scab, seed potatoes of scab-resistant strains should be substituted. Industrial potato fields should be presprouted, while seed of early and midseason varieties, which are to be planted in the summer, should be stored in cool places.
- c. Planting potatoes as soon as the ground is warm. Hill planting should be introduced, since it gives higher yields and makes cultivation easier. Planting of early potatoes should be completed by 31 March, and of other potatoes in higher locations by 15 May, while summer planting of early and midseason varieties should be finished by 10 July. Planting should be done in soil well supplied with moisture, which has not been sown since spring, and which has been kept free of weeds until planting time.
- d. Breaking up the crusted soil and destroying weeds, first by harrowing and then by cultivating three or four times, until the plants begin to bloom; fertilizer should be added to the leaf at least once. Plants should be sprayed against potato blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) in early varieties, and the fight against the American potato beetle must be conducted with all available means.
- e. Limiting losses in harvesting by careful digging, picking, and later by harrowing fields; the harvest must be completed by 20 October at the latest. Potatoes for delivery should be graded carefully, and harvested potatoes should be protected against freezing during transportation and storage, and should be packed properly.

High Yields in Higher-Type JZD

In order that JZD be well supplied with improved seed potatoes, the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Internal Trade, and the national committees shall:

- a. Deliver to the JZD for their seed-growing sections, in exchange for counterdeliveries, selected or improved seed potatoes of the best quality and types, which are most suitable for production conditions on the JZD. Deliveries of seed potatoes should be made on the basis of agreements; deliveries must be completed before the proper time for planting, and at the latest by 30 April.

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b. Deliver to the JZD, on an exchange basis, improved seed potatoes for the entire planting area.

To encourage all JZD to raise their own high-grade seed potatoes, the Ministry of Agriculture and the national committees shall provide for:

a. The accelerated selection of permanent seed-raising plots (20 percent of the total planting area) on all higher-type JZD where this has not already been done. On these areas improved seed potatoes and seedlings are to be produced for use next year.

b. The production of improved seed potatoes of early varieties in regions where the quality of potatoes is declining. This is to be done on seed-raising plots according to the summer planting method.

c. Increased care for seed-raising plots. This includes both soil preparation and fertilizing, and early planting and care of plants during their period of growth.

d. Seeing that the required quantity of seed potatoes, harvested from the seed-raising plots, is used for no other purpose than as seed potatoes.

As a result of the working experience of many exemplary JZD last year, the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Committees shall provide, in higher-type JZD, for the organization of labor in plant production, abolishing of equalitarianism and other shortcomings in rewarding members, and the development of competitions for the highest potato yield among groups, squads, and individual JZD, by (1) dividing the permanent working groups which work on potato fields, into work squads, each responsible for its own plot; all the work in these groups is to be organized according to plans compiled on the basis of okres agrotechnical regulations, and discussed with all participants of the cooperative; and (2) introducing a system of supplementary rewards, or bonuses, for potato harvests above the planned quantity, produced by the work squads.

Providing for Planned Yields on Lower-Type JZD and in Obecs Without JZD

In the interest of increasing potato harvests and animal production, the Ministry of Agriculture and the national committees shall direct and aid small and medium farmers to:

a. Plant potatoes by the "line-planting" system, following the example of many communities in the western frontier region. This must be done because on large, unbroken fields machines may be better used, and the fight against the American potato beetle is facilitated.

b. Work jointly in times of peak work loads, such as the planting, cultivating, and harvest seasons, on the basis of obec seasonal work plans, compiled according to okres agrotechnical regulations.

c. Obtain all synthetic fertilizers and improved seed potatoes at once, according to agreements concluded between farmers and the local national committee.

d. Provide for proper seed potatoes, if necessary by exchanging poor potatoes for scab-resistant varieties; this exchange shall be accomplished among farmers or even among obecs.

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The Ministry of Agriculture and the national committees shall further devote special attention to the handling of potatoes by the village rich, and see that the tasks assigned by the production plan are properly carried out by them, and that the village rich are punished for all violations of the state plan.

Measures to Increase Production of Industrial Potatoes

Considering the importance of cultivating starchy varieties of potatoes:

- a. The Ministry of Agriculture shall provide that industrial potato areas are planted with seed of proper industrial and agricultural-industrial varieties of potatoes, which will provide the maximum yield of starch per hectare.
- b. The Ministry of Food shall see that factories of the potato industry cooperate with national committees, JZD, and state farms in providing for the production of industrial potatoes, particularly in regard to the utilization of industrial varieties of seed potatoes and their cultivation.
- c. The Ministry of Food, in agreement with the Ministry of Internal Trade, shall provide for the direct purchase of industrial potatoes from areas immediately adjacent to factories, which will be set aside for the cultivation of industrial potatoes. A supplementary agreement will be concluded between the factory and the growers for the delivery and production of agricultural products.
- d. The Ministry of Internal Trade shall provide for the needs of the food industry, by purchasing planned quantities of industrial and agricultural-industrial varieties of potatoes in areas outside those immediately adjacent to factories of the potato industry.

Providing for the Production of High-Quality Improved Seed Potatoes.

The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Internal Trade, and the national committees shall see that:

- a. State farms and JZD which produce improved seed potatoes select their best land for their plant-propagation plots, carry out proper agricultural measures on these areas in time and with the maximum care, and devote all care to the health of these plants.
- b. Selected seed potatoes are delivered to JZD, state farms, and other propagators, to be grown on the designated plots. These plants are to be of varieties suited to the locality and of seed quality, and are to be planted as early in spring as the weather permits, or by 30 April at the latest.
- c. By 15 June, instruction of plant propagators from the JZD and the state farms is completed and 5,000 selectors are chosen and trained.
- d. Selection and training of plant supervisors are carried out by 1 June.
- e. On four different occasions unsuitable varieties will be eliminated under the direction of selectors in the period from 15 June to 31 July, and on summer plantings by 31 August, on the contractual plant-propagating and seed-raising plots of the JZD.
- f. The survey of plant-propagation areas is completed by 31 July, and in the case of early varieties by 15 July, and that the identification program is quickly carried out.

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g. Seed potatoes are harvested by 10 October, midseason varieties by 20 September at the latest, and summer plantings by 20 October. All graders should see that potatoes are perfectly graded and distributed according to plan, and that specified quantities are stored for spring in well ventilated pits and cellars.

The Ministry of Agriculture shall insure that:

a. The findings and methods of progressive Soviet agricultural science are fully utilized in research institutes and on experimental fields of the JZD and state farms, and new Soviet potato-raising methods are disseminated among cooperative members and workers on state farms and in MTS, and are introduced on the JZD and state farms.

b. In the next few years new productive and healthy varieties of potatoes are developed in research institutes, particularly early and industrial varieties.

c. Mechanization of labor in potato raising is accelerated, and particularly that the problem of mechanization of planting, cultivating, and harvesting of potatoes is solved.

#### Calculating Crop Purchase Prices of Potatoes

The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Internal Trade, and the Ministry of Food shall see that:

a. The purchase prices of potatoes are established with respect to quality, delivery time in the case of early potatoes, and starch content in the case of industrial potatoes, with particularly high prices placed on potatoes with a high starch content.

b. Extra amounts are paid for late and industrial potatoes delivered in excess of the agreed amounts; in the case of industrial potatoes the starch content should also be taken into consideration.

c. Quality and quantity norms of potatoes for the fulfillment of delivery goals, prices, and bonuses for deliveries of potatoes in excess of agreed amounts, including seed potatoes, are announced by 15 April.

#### Agrotechnology to Increase Hectare Yields of Sugar Beets

The government charges the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of the Food Industry, the national committees, and the sugar factories with assuring the following basic principles of agrotechnology in raising sugar beets in 1952:

a. In the interest of better management of moisture and of uniform and rapid sprouting of beets, the beet fields should be dragged as soon as the peaks of the furrows have dried out in spring. As soon as the weeds have been removed the soil should be prepared immediately for sowing. Synthetic fertilizers are to be applied at this time.

b. In infested areas all the seed should be treated together, and the treated seed then distributed to growers.

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c. In order that winter moisture in the ground be properly used, the growing period of the beets extended, and damage from pests avoided, the beets should be sown as soon as the temperature of the ground reaches 6 degrees centigrade, or by 15 April at the latest. Supplementary sowing, when necessary, should be accomplished by 15 May at the latest, or, in exceptional cases on orders from the okres national committee, by 31 May. Before sowing the ground should be made firm by rolling as needed, and a depth of 3 to 4 centimeters should be maintained while sowing.

d. To accelerate hand cultivation of beets and destruction of weeds, and to assure proper soil granularity, the soil should be cultivated at least four times. This should be done after the beets have sprouted and before they are hoed and thinned. In heavier soils this should also be done after each heavy rainfall, and each cultivation should be completed within 4 to 5 days. The depth of cultivation should be increased steadily to 12 or 15 centimeters.

e. To increase hectare yields and sugar production, the old method of thinning to a distance of 30-50 centimeters must be abandoned, and the beets must be thinned down to a distance of only 18-24 centimeters, in order to leave 100,000 to 120,000 plants per hectare. The beets should be thinned as soon as the first pair of true leaves appears, and this should be completed within one week. By thinning down to a smaller distance, and with proper cultivation methods, two to three times greater harvests can be attained.

f. After the ground is sufficiently granular and the weeds destroyed, a minimum of two hoeings shall follow. The first of these shall be before thinning, and the second no later than 3 weeks after thinning.

g. For the best plants to develop uniformly and quickly, synthetic fertilizer must be added to the leaf. This should be done in two applications of not less than 50 kilograms per hectare each. Liquid manure solution, made of one part manure to three or five parts of water, may be added to the rows at the time of cultivation.

h. Great care must be devoted to the health of the beet plants, and to the systematic fight against pests.

i. Losses which arise from breaking beet leaves before the harvest, as well as losses during harvest, must be avoided. This may be done by harvesting only ripe beet plants, without breaking their roots, by properly cutting off their leaves, and by quickly carrying away the trimmed beets from the field to the sugar refineries. Losses from drying out and freezing of beets may be reduced by covering piles of beets with leaves. Uneconomical methods of harvesting result in weight losses, which may total one fifth of the weight of the beets, not to mention the loss of sugar content.

j. In order that the harvest of sugar beets may be still further increased in 1953, the field should be shallow-plowed to a depth of 5 to 6 centimeters immediately after the harvest of early crops. Early in the autumn the ground should be fertilized with at least 300 quintals per hectare of manure, or 450 quintals per hectare of compost. This should then be plowed under to a depth of 10 to 15 centimeters, and then deep-plowed to a depth of 28 to 30 centimeters.

k. To provide the best fertilization for beet fields, good compost heaps should be started during the year. Sufficient fertilization with natural fertilizers and timely deep autumn plowing will increase the amount of moisture in the ground for spring sowing, will enrich the ground with humus and valuable elements, and will thoroughly granulate the soil, all of which are basic requirements for a good harvest in the next year.

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The beets should be grown by themselves, and not with beets of low sugar content, fodder beets, carrots, poppies, sunflowers, or other plants.

Sowing, Cultivation, and Harvesting of Sugar Beets on JZD and State Farms

The Ministry of Agriculture and the national committees shall see that:

- a. The JZD adhere to the plan for sowing sugar beets.
- b. In addition to repairs of all machines and tools for spring work, repairs on harvesting machinery and tools are made at the latest 10 days before the beginning of the harvest.
- c. On higher-type JZD, common work on sugar-beet fields is organized into permanent working groups. These groups shall be divided into squads in such a way that each individual in the squad is assigned a part of the field on which to work during the year. The work accomplished shall be scrutinized by an agronomist and by the leader of the work squad, so that shortcomings may be eliminated.
- d. If the planned hectare yield of sugar beets on JZD of types III and IV is exceeded, bonuses are instituted for the sugar-beet workers, for each quintal of sugar beets produced above the planned amount.
- e. Sugar is distributed among individual cooperative members justly, according to the quantity and quality of work they performed on the sugar beets.
- f. The largest possible number of JZD participate in competitions for high hectare yields of sugar beets with high sugar content, so that a minimum of 100 quintals of sugar per hectare will be obtained on the largest sugar-beet area cultivated.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the directors of Czechoslovak State Farms shall see, with the aid of the national committees, that:

- a. Planned areas of sugar beets are sowed.
- b. In addition to repairs to all types of machines and tools, repairs on harvest machinery and tools are made at the latest 10 days before the beginning of the harvest.
- c. Common work is properly organized into groups and squads, employing the principle of personal responsibility and of rewards according to the quantity and quality of work.
- d. Detailed time plans for work on the sugar beets are worked out and discussed with workers on state farms before the beginning of work on individual farms.
- e. Manpower requirements are met primarily from local sources, with pledges from sponsor factories used only after these sources have been exhausted.
- f. Required manpower is recruited in time for peak work. The workers should be well housed, fed, and fully utilized.
- g. All beet cutters and markers are fully utilized in order to accelerate and facilitate thinning.
- h. Sugar is distributed in a just and timely manner to those who engaged in the spring work and in harvesting sugar beets.

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1. The largest possible number of farms participate in competitions for the attainment of high hectare yields of sugar beets and sugar content, with a minimum of 100 quintals of sugar per hectare on the largest sugar-beet area cultivated.

Directors of MTS shall, in the interest of attaining high sugar-beet yields, provide for full aid to JZD by concluding the largest possible number of agreements, particularly agreements concerning yields and the full use of all machines for quick and high-quality execution of important sugar-beet work. These agreements shall especially cover, on the consolidated fields of the JZD, good soil preparation for sugar beet sowing, timely harvesting, proper stubble plowing immediately after harvesting, and deep plowing on those fields to be planted with sugar beets in 1953.

Providing for Planned Areas and Hectare Yields on Lower-Type JZD and in Obecs Without JZD

To provide for the planned harvest in the private sector the Ministry of Agriculture and the national committees shall especially see that:

a. Planned areas of sugar beets are sown by individual growers in obeys. The above authorities, together with sugar refineries, shall inspect the sowing areas.

b. Synthetic fertilizers are obtained in time by individual obeys and utilized properly for sugar beets by individual growers.

c. All machinery, draft animals, and manpower in the obeys are utilized properly, and joint execution of work is adopted, particularly in thinning, hoeing, and harvesting.

d. Individual time schedules and regulations are adhered to in soil preparation, sowing, thinning, hoeing, fighting pests, and harvesting, according to the time schedules of obeys.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the national committees shall devote particular attention to the cultivation of sugar beets by the village rich and see that they obtain and properly use synthetic fertilizers, and that they carry out, agrotechnical measures in soil preparation, sowing, thinning, hoeing, fighting pests, and harvesting, on time.

Production of High-Quality Beet Seed

Experience has shown that the use of high-quality seed makes it possible to increase yields by one fifth. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture shall:

a. Direct efforts of seed-improvement enterprises (research institutes and sugar-beet stations) toward productive varieties which contain satisfactory amounts of sugar. They shall abandon the extreme types which have been developed, and turn their efforts toward normal development of beets with higher sugar content and toward the improvement of regional types of beets in order to attain higher sugar yields per hectare.

b. Compel seed producers (the Czechoslovak State Farms and the JZD) to grow enough high-quality improved seed on the planned areas, by applying proper agrotechnology to raising plants for seed and to transplanting. They shall do this especially by sowing the seed for seedlings by 1 May, by planting healthy seedlings by 31 March in dry regions and in other areas by 15 April, by careful cultivation during the growing period, by timely harvesting, and by curbing waste in harvesting and threshing of seed plants, as well as in harvesting and storing seedlings.

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For seed plants and seedlings the best soil, well fertilized, limed, and well prepared, preferably soil in which winter wheat, mixtures, or clover-grass mixtures have been grown, should be selected.

Help From Sugar Refineries in Providing for Planned Sugar-Beet Yields

The Ministry of Food shall:

- a. Establish an agronomy service in all factories and enterprises of the sugar industry and in the main sugar administration. A research institute for the sugar industry shall be established and agronomists trained so that the agronomy service may become fully effective in aiding the production of sugar beets in 1952.
- b. See that agronomists of sugar refineries work in closest contact with the national committees and beet growers, cooperate in seeing that the plan for sowing is adhered to, and see to timely and careful execution of individual types of work. They shall see that plants are plowed up only when necessary, with the approval of the okres national committee, and that more beets are planted in place of those plowed up.
- c. See that leading workers and agronomists of sugar refineries cooperate with the national committees in the mass expansion of the Prosenice-movement competition, and particularly help in organizational and supervisory work.
- d. See that employees of the sugar refineries undertake to sponsor the JZD and obeys in their areas, provide for the fulfillment of their sugar beet sowing plans, and give them timely help in doing away with shortcomings and in uncovering the sabotage of the village rich.
- e. Make certain that only one variety of seed is issued at a time and that varieties are not mixed.
- f. See that sugar refineries work out and discuss with the national committees, the sugar beet receipts plan, which will be coordinated with the harvest plan in such a way that from the standpoints of both agriculture and the sugar refineries, the operation will be as efficient as possible.
- g. See that refineries take pains to store the sugar beets they receive carefully, and to eliminate all possible shortcomings and faults in receiving areas, mechanical equipment, and storage areas so that losses of beets and of their properties will be held to a minimum.
- h. See that refineries conduct tests on domestic and foreign varieties of beet seed in order to determine the value of particular varieties for various soil and climatic conditions and in order to attain maximum yields of sugar per hectare.

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